Amendments to the Claims

Please make the following changes to Claim 1 without prejudice.

The following description of Claim 1 will replace all prior versions and/or listings of that claim in the application:

Claim 1. A culture medium, comprising: a growth solution, wherein the growth solution is composed of chemicals that promote the growth of mycobacteria; one or more indicators, wherein the indicators undergo a first spectroscopic change when the pH of the growth solution is altered between 7.6 and 6.0 which indicates mycobacterial growth and a second spectroscopic change when the pH is altered between 6.0 and 5.0 which indicates the growth of other microorganisms and one or more inhibitors, wherein the inhibitors inhibit growth of microorganisms that are not mycobacterium.

2. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the culture medium is selective for the determination of the presence of tuberculosis mycobacteria.

3. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the growth solution comprises a magnesium salt, an iron salt, an amino acid, and a carbohydrate.

4. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the growth solution comprises a magnesium salt, an iron salt, an amino acid, a carbohydrate, and a gelling substance.

5. (Original): The culture medium of claim 4, wherein the gelling substance comprises

an egg solution, wherein the egg solution is prepared by homogenizing one or more eggs in sterilized deionized water.

6. (Original): The culture medium of claim 4, wherein the gelling substance comprises agar.

7. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the spectroscopic change is a color change.

8. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, wherein the culture medium undergoes a first spectroscopic change when mycobacteria are growing in the culture medium, and wherein the culture medium undergoes a second spectroscopic change, different then the first spectroscopic change, when microorganisms that are not mycobacteria are growing in the culture medium.

9. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, further comprising one or more antimicrobial compounds.

10. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, further comprising one or more antimicrobial compounds, wherein the antimicrobial compounds inhibit the growth of microorganisms that are not mycobacterium.

11. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, further comprising antimicrobial compounds, wherein the antimicrobial compounds comprise Polymixin B, Piperacillin, Amphotericin B, Naldixic acid, and Trimethoprim.

12. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, further comprising one or more antimicrobial compounds, wherein the antimicrobial compounds inhibit the growth of

predetermined species of mycobacteria.

13. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, further comprising one or more antimicrobial drugs, wherein the antimicrobial drugs inhibit the growth of mycobacteria.

14. (Original): The culture medium of claim 1, further comprising one or more antimicrobial drugs, wherein the antimicrobial drugs inhibit the growth of tuberculosis mycobacteria.

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By this change the pH ranges between 7.6-6.0 and 6.0-5.0 is given for the medium. Malachite green is not a pH indicator for this pH range where our described medium functions. Malachite green is used solely as an inhibitor for microorganisms other than mycobacteria to make the medium selective for mycobacteria. Thus we do not claim malachite green to be used as a pH indicator as such is impossible within the defined pH range. Phenol red, which is responsible for the spectroscopic (color change) between the pH range of 5.0 and 7.6, is used in the medium as an indicator.
The specification of the pH range also delineates the structural differences between this medium and any prior medium, which structural differences allow it to make rapid detection of mycobacteria and microorganisms that are not mycobacteria by measuring and then registering by color change the pH change that occurs during microbial growth.

Respectfully submitted,

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